

# **NEW YORK STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE**

## **2019-2020 BIENNIAL REPORT**



### **Department of Agriculture and Markets**

**RICHARD A. BALL, COMMISSIONER**

#### **NEW YORK ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGRICULTURE**

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Jim Bittner, Vice Chair

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## **Introduction**

The Advisory Council on Agriculture (ACA) was established by Chapter 79 of the Laws of 1980 to advise and make recommendations to state agencies on state government plans, policies and programs affecting farming and the agricultural industry of the state.

The ACA continued working to maintain the viability of New York's agricultural industry in 2019-2020. The Council performed its statutorily defined roles of assisting in the management of the Agricultural Districts Program and oversight responsibilities related to farmland protection grant applications, sound agricultural practice opinions, agricultural assessment values, right to farm law, notice of intent cases, agricultural protection and occasional grant programs for food and fiber production.

## **Organization**

The ACA members are selected for their expertise and experience related to the areas of Council responsibility.

At least five members of the Council must be operators of a commercial farm enterprise and at least two must be representatives of local governments.

The duties and responsibilities of the Council are articulated in the Sections 297, 303, 303-a, 304, 304-a, 305(4), 308, 309, 325, and 329 of the Agriculture and Markets Law (AML). They are as follows:

- provide advice, comments, and recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the establishment and review of agricultural districts,
- provide advice, comments, and recommendations to the State Board of Real Property Services regarding the establishment of agricultural assessment values and any revisions to the Agricultural Classification,
- provide advice to the Commissioner and other state agency heads on state plans, policies, and programs affecting farming and the agricultural industry,
- assist the Commissioner in determining whether actions, which are subject to the Notice on Intent requirements of AML, would have an unreasonably adverse effect on the viability of a farm enterprise or enterprises located within an agricultural district,
- consult with the Commissioner on the issuance of sound agricultural practices opinions,
- advise the Commissioner on whether particular land uses are agricultural in nature,
- provide recommendations and advise the Commissioner on the operation of the Food and Agriculture Industry Development Program, and
- consult with the Commissioner on the identification and coordination of available resources for the Farmland Protection Program.

## **Activities**

In 2019 and 2020, the Advisory Council on Agriculture met in formal sessions with Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) Commissioner Richard A. Ball, Deputy Commissioner Jackie Czub and AGM staff. The discussion centered around several current topics involving NYS agriculture, including public water lateral hookups in Agricultural Districts, siting solar arrays on prime farmland, protections provided by the AGM statute to startup operations, expanding agritourism on farms, invasive species, and challenges faced by the dairy industry. Minutes for the meetings can be obtained on the [ACA Webpage](#).

This report is prepared and submitted consistent with the requirements of Section 309(7), and Section 304-b of Article 25-AA of the AML.

## **Agricultural and Farmland Protection Programs**

New York State's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program, authorized by Article 25-AAA of the AML, was enacted in 1992. The program encourages counties and local governments to work with the agricultural community to preserve, conserve, manage, and improve the State's farm economy and its land base.

The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Unit of the Division of Land and Water administers the provisions of the AML, which include: Article 25-AA (Agricultural Districts) to maintain viable agricultural lands, farm operations, and the production of crops, livestock and livestock products; Article 25-AAA (Farmland Protection Programs) to maintain working landscapes and the irreplaceable land base associated with it. The Department is a statutory party under Article 7 and Article 10 of the Public Service Law and advocates for the mitigation of agricultural impacts resulting from the construction of large-scale solar arrays, high pressure natural gas pipeline(s), commercial wind turbines, and high-voltage electric transmission line facilities.

## **Farmland Protection Implementation Grants**

2020 marked the 24th anniversary of the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) program. In recent years, the state has reinvigorated the initiative and committed unprecedented funding for farmland preservation. The grant program is funded through New York State's Environmental Protection Fund, which was allocated a record-level \$300 million in the Fiscal Year 2017 State Budget. Funding for the FPIG program increased by \$5 million.

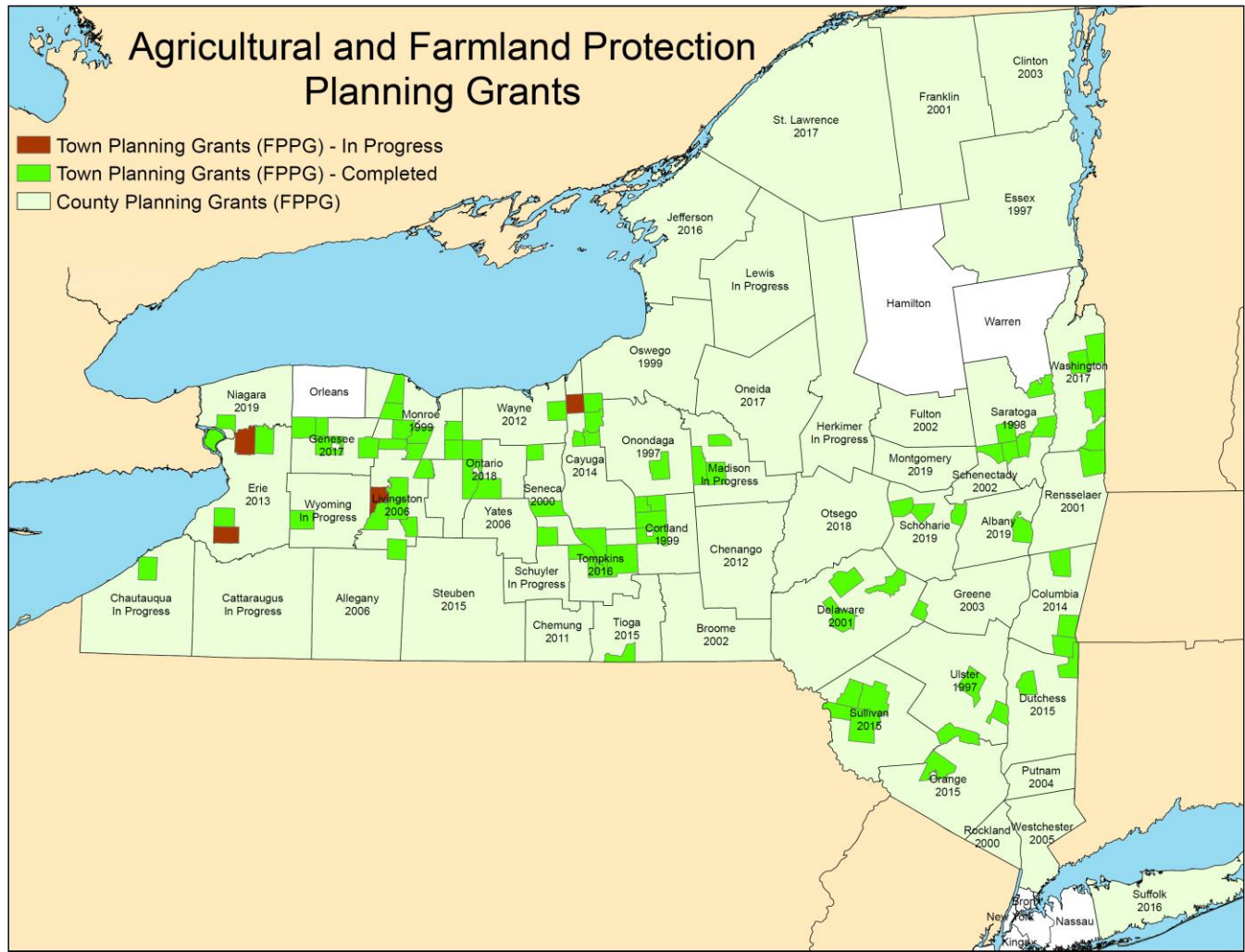
Since 2011, the state has committed more than \$110.3 million through the FPIG program to permanently protect over 44,000 acres of viable agricultural lands.

## **Farmland Protection Planning Grants**

AGM provides state assistance payments to counties and municipalities to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans. These plans should identify land or areas proposed to be protected, as well as to describe activities, programs, and strategies intended to promote continued agricultural use.

Counties are eligible for grants of up to \$50,000 or 50% of the cost (whichever is less) and

municipalities are eligible for grants of up to \$25,000 or 75% of the cost (whichever is less) for developing a local farmland protection plan. The local share of funding must provide at least 20% cash (no more than 80% in kind services).



## Awards for Municipal Farmland Protection Planning Grants

Total state funding awarded was \$25,000 during 2019 and 2020. A single municipal application was received by AGM. The application identifies work tasks that address the basic requirements set by the state in AML section 324-a.

Requested  
\$25,000

Municipality  
Town of Leicester (Livingston County)

## Awards for County Farmland Protection Planning Grants

Total state funding awarded was \$302,500 during 2019 and 2020 for seven county applications reviewed by Division staff and deemed complete. Each application identifies work tasks that address the basic requirements set by the state in Circular 1500 section 324.



<u>Requested</u>	<u>County</u>
\$50,000	Chautauqua County
\$50,000	Essex County
\$50,000	Lewis County
\$50,000	Onondaga County
\$50,000	Seneca County
\$12,500	Schuyler County
\$40,000	Wyoming County

## **Land Trust Grants Program**

Subject to the availability of funds, the Land Trust Grants program was established for the purpose of awarding state assistance to not-for-profit conservation organizations for activities that will assist counties and municipalities with their agricultural and farmland protection efforts. To be eligible, an organization must have at least one active farmer on their board of directors at the time of application or provide for the appointment of a farmer to such board of directors in a manner approved by the Commissioner.

State funding under Round 2 of the Land Trust Grants Program - Appraisal Projects advanced funds to land trusts to pay for “no-commitment” appraisals on proposed viable farmland preservation projects. Before an appraisal can be conducted, a draft site plan and draft conservation easement must be reviewed and approved per Department guidance. Appraisals based on these approved documents will be the most accurate estimate for the value of development rights on that farm, based on the use areas identified in the site plan and the retained property rights identified in the conservation easement. In March of 2019, the total requested funds for five applications were \$231,162, which leveraged an additional \$15,375 in matching contributions.

State funding under Round 3 of the Land Trusts Grant Program - Outreach Activities advanced farmland access efforts to subsets of landowners derived from an existing or to-be-developed viable agricultural lands inventory and screening tools. Eligible outreach efforts focus on the utilization and conservation of agricultural lands using the following required project elements: an inventory of viable agricultural lands; a screening process; and outreach activities targeted to the landowners of inventoried parcels of viable agricultural land. In spring of 2020, the total requested funding for eight applications was \$347,189, which leveraged an additional \$61,337 in matching contributions.

## **Agricultural District Program**

Since 1971, the Agricultural Districts Law, Article 25-AA of the AML, has been the centerpiece of state and county level efforts to preserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land to produce food and other agricultural products.

The New York State Constitution directs the Legislature to provide for the protection of agricultural lands. The Agricultural Districts Law meets, in part, that constitutional mandate by providing a locally initiated mechanism for the protection and enhancement of farmlands as a viable segment of the local and state economies, and as an economic and environmental

resource of major importance.

Several benefits accrue to farm operations within certified agricultural districts. Chief among these are:

- the mandate that state agencies, as a matter of policy, encourage the maintenance of viable farming in agricultural districts,
- the limitation on the exercise of eminent domain and other public acquisitions and the advance of public funds for certain construction activities,
- the limitation on the siting of a solid waste management facility on land in agricultural production,
- the limitation on the power to impose benefit assessments, special ad valorem levies or other rates or fees in certain improvement districts or benefit areas,
- the requirement that local governments, when exercising home rule authority through local laws, ordinances, or regulations, do so in a manner that does not unreasonably restrict or regulate farm operations, and
- the requirement that applications for certain planning and zoning actions impacting lands within 500 feet of a farm operation within an agricultural district include an Agricultural Data Statement to evaluate the possible impacts of the proposed action on the nearby farm operations.

Additionally, the Agricultural Districts Law establishes a land classification system used to assign agricultural assessment values to qualified properties both in and outside of an agricultural district; creates a process for the review of agricultural practices; discourages private nuisance lawsuits due to an agricultural practice that is determined to be sound; provides for advisory opinions as to whether particular land uses are agricultural in nature; and requires disclosure to prospective grantees of real property that the property is in an agricultural district. The Agricultural Districts Law also defines the procedure for district creation.

Today there are 165 state-certified agricultural districts in 53 counties in New York. These districts contain 9,149,836 million acres, about 25% of the total land mass of the state. Approximately 26,227 farm operations are protected through their inclusion in agricultural districts. For a complete listing of the state's Agricultural Districts Profile and corresponding statistical data, visit the Division of Lands and Water Resources on AGM's [website](#).

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AGM is an active participant in the New York State's Citizen's Connect Program, a comprehensive data transparency website located at [Data.NY.Gov](https://data.ny.gov), which hosts hundreds of datasets, maps, and charts from state agencies and authorities. Information about [Agricultural Districts](#) was added to the AGM's available datasets.

By law, agricultural districts are reviewed every eight years after creation. In addition, counties must choose a 30-day period during the calendar year to solicit applications from landowners for the addition of land to an existing agricultural district. During this reporting period, the ACA reviewed and made recommendations to the Commissioner on the statutory eight-year review of 26 agricultural districts. In addition, 53 annual inclusion modifications were received by AGM from 78 agricultural districts in 2019 and from 22 counties and 56 districts in 2020.

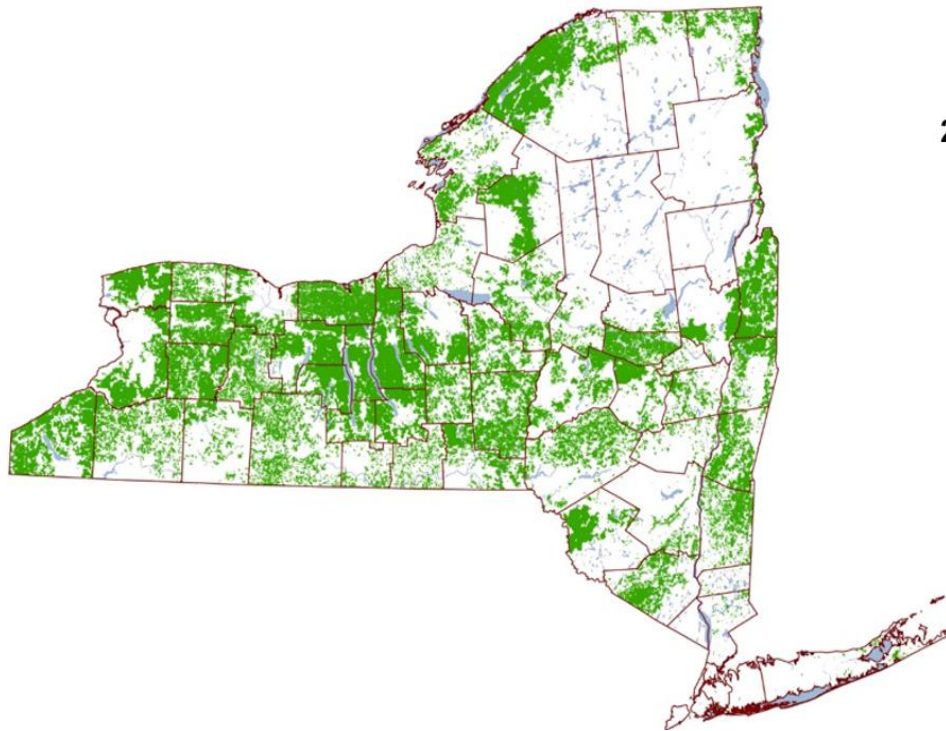
### **Agricultural District Mapping Program**

The [Cornell Institute for Resource Information Systems](#) (IRIS) facilitates the [Agricultural District Mapping Program](#) on behalf of the [New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets](#). IRIS supports County Agricultural Districts efforts by providing consulting services and review, and distributing and archiving maps to the participating units of local government and responsible state agencies.

[Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository](#) (CUGIR) is an active online repository in the [National Spatial Data Clearinghouse](#) program. CUGIR provides geospatial data and metadata for New York State, with special emphasis on those natural features relevant to agriculture, ecology, natural resources, and human-environment interactions.



## New York State Agricultural Districts 2020



### 2020 Statewide Totals:

9,149,836 Acres  
26,227 Farms  
165 Districts  
53 Counties

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### Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations

The Agricultural Districts Law protects farmers against local laws that unreasonably restrict farm operations located within an agricultural district. Division staff, together with AGM legal staff, review both existing and proposed laws to determine if they are compatible with farm operations. In cases where a local law is determined to be unreasonable, staff work with the involved local government to develop mutually accepted modifications. If a local government is unwilling to modify an unreasonably restrictive law, the Commissioner is authorized to take action to compel compliance with the Agricultural Districts Law. In a landmark decision, the State Court of Appeals ruled that the opinion of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets should be given deference in the interpretation and administration of this important right to farm protection.

During the past two years, the Division made numerous formal and informal responses to requests for review of local laws and ordinances. As a major work component for Division staff, hundreds of phone calls and written requests were received and answered during this time. Requests from farmers (60%) involved compliance with local zoning laws, receipt of Notices of Violation, building permit fees, compliance with the State's Building Code, agricultural assessment issues, nuisance complaints, and neighbor relations. Municipal requests (40%) involved reviews of amendments to municipal zoning codes and local laws, comprehensive plans, and complaints against farm operations. AGM staff worked with staff from the Department of State, Department of Health, Department of Environmental Conservation, and



the Department of Tax and Finance to provide the appropriate technical assistance to both farmers and municipal staff. AGM staff generally spent two evenings each month traveling around the state to speak with municipal boards about the AML, farm operations, and protection afforded to farms under the Agricultural Districts Law.

Formal requests for review must be provided to AGM in writing and include a completed [Section 305-a Review Form](#). Section 305-a of Article 25-AA is the section of the AML that provides the above-mentioned protections. In 2019, AGM conducted four formal investigations and in 2020 conducted 17 formal investigations.

### **Notice of Intent Reviews**

Section 305(4) of the Agricultural Districts Law requires any state, public benefit corporation or government that intends to acquire certain land or an interest in certain land within an agricultural district, or which intends to advance public funds to assist the construction of residential, commercial or industrial facilities, or water or sewer facilities to serve non-farm structures in an agricultural district, to use all practical means to minimize their impacts on agriculture. Local and state governmental entities and public benefit corporations must submit a Final Notice of Intent to the Commissioner and to the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board describing the project and offering mitigation measures to minimize impacts to farm operations located within an agricultural district.

### **Agricultural in Nature Opinions**

Section 308(4) of the Agricultural Districts Law states that the Commissioner, in consultation with the state ACA, shall issue an opinion within 30 days upon request from any person as to whether certain land uses are agricultural in nature. During this reporting period, the Commissioner issued two opinions.

### **Right to Farm/Sound Agricultural Practices**

Section 308(1) of the Agricultural Districts Law directs the Commissioner, in consultation with the ACA, to issue opinions, upon request, as to whether certain agricultural practices are sound. Sound agricultural practices refer to those practices necessary for the on-farm production, preparation, and marketing of agricultural commodities. Examples of activities the commissioner may consider include, but are not limited to, operation of farm equipment; proper use of agricultural chemicals and other crop protection methods; direct sale to consumers of agricultural commodities or foods containing agricultural commodities produced on-farm; agricultural tourism; timber operation, as defined in Section 301(14); and construction and use of farm structures.

During this reporting period there were four official requests for right to farm opinions. There were numerous reviews of local laws performed by Division staff for both local officials and the public.

### **Amendments to Agricultural Districts Law**

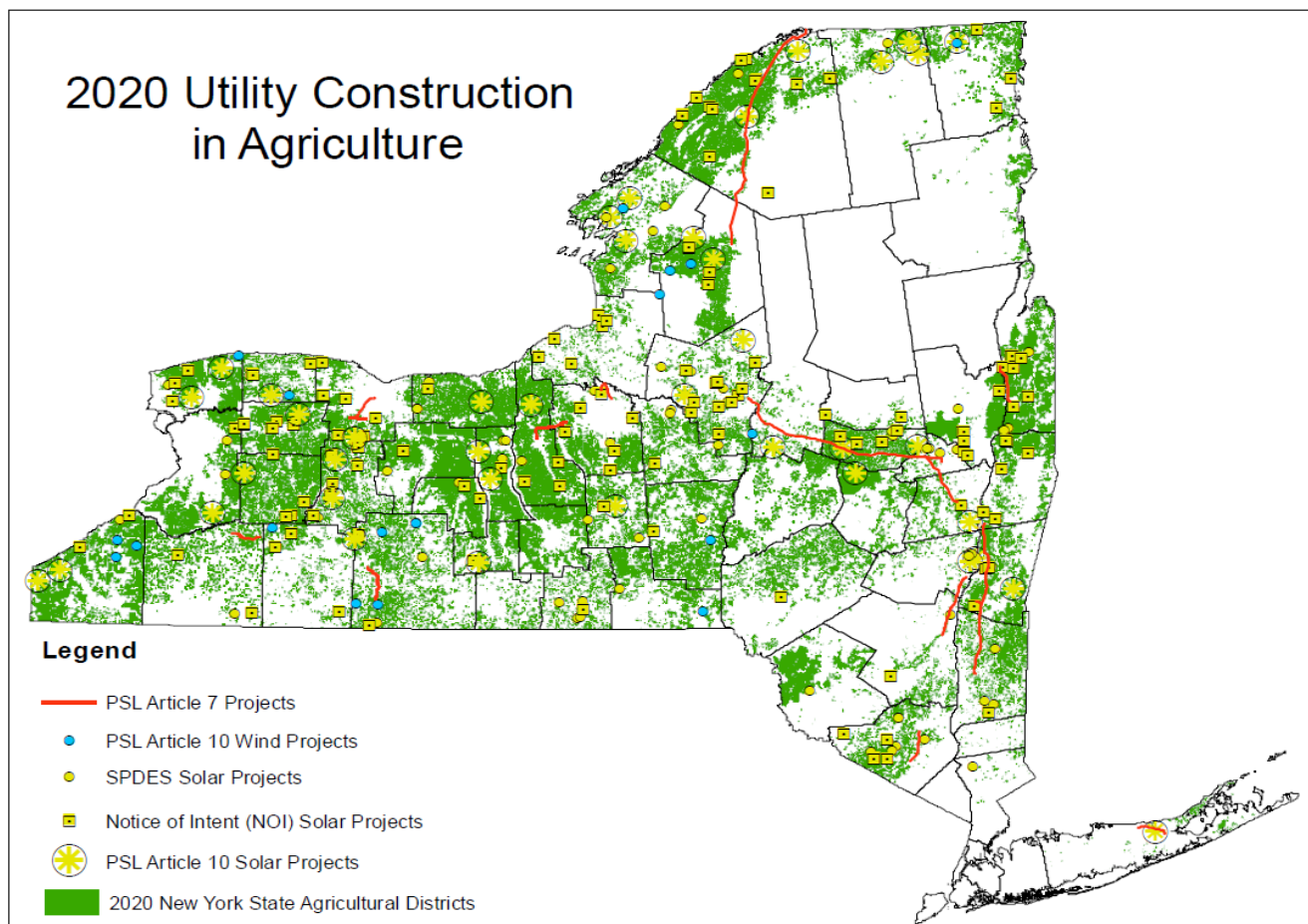
**2018:**

AML §301 (4) and §305(7): Adds a new paragraph (n) to subdivision 4 of section 301 to include hopyards under the definition of “land used in agricultural production” and amends subdivision 7 of section 305 to establish hopyards as agricultural land with the same tax abatement as vineyards and orchards in order to qualify for an agricultural assessment.

**2020:**

AML §305 (1): adds a new paragraph f to subdivision one of section 305 to authorize the continuation of an agricultural assessment for property owners who are currently qualified for such assessment but may no longer be qualified for such assessment in 2021 because of the loss of sales due to the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic and related emergency declarations, provided such property owners submit an application substantiating the lower sales were due to such effects.

## **Large-Scale Utility Projects Affecting Farmland**



AGM is a statutory party in Public Service Law cases involved in the development and construction of major utility-scale projects affecting farmland. AGM staff works with project applicants and other parties beginning in the early application stages of proposed projects through final stages of construction and restoration to ensure that impacts to agricultural resources are minimized and/or properly mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. These projects primarily include the development of high voltage electric transmission lines, commercial wind energy generating facilities, and solar energy generating facilities. AGM also participates as a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act in all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceedings involving interstate high pressure natural gas transmission pipelines that potentially impact agricultural lands in New York.

As a statutory party to all proceedings certified pursuant to NYS Public Service Law Article 7 (Major Electric and Gas Transmission Facilities) and Article 10 (Certification of Major Electric Generating Facilities), Division staff responsibilities include reviewing proposed projects to determine potential siting and construction impacts to agricultural resources on farms, and recommending alternatives and mitigative measures that minimize or eliminate potential negative impacts to the maximum extent practicable. In addition to providing technical pre-application consultation to achieve settlement, Division staff also conducts extensive on-site reviews during construction and restoration to assess the level of compliance with stipulations and certificate conditions for construction involving agricultural resource concerns.

Currently, the Division's large-scale utility case load involves projects including, but not limited to: 364 miles of electrical transmission lines; 860 wind turbines; and 6,237.5 MW of utility scale solar generation (on greater than 66,500 acres of land under the applicants' control). AGM is traditionally involved with natural gas transmission lines; however, these projects have not recently been prevalent.

More information regarding AGM construction guidelines is available on the [Division's website](#).





## Summary

The Agricultural Districts Law continues to demonstrate its critical role in maintaining a viable agricultural industry in New York State. This law serves as a foundational underpinning for farmers' ability to conduct their business within an environment that is actively supportive of production agriculture.

The State Constitution acknowledges that agricultural lands are a necessary and irreplaceable resource that must be protected to assure economic stability and growth within the agricultural industry. AGM and the ACA, through the programs they administer, offer opportunities and incentives to keep farmland in production. Since 1996, the Farmland Protection Program has disbursed more than \$160 million throughout the state, partnering with federal and local governments and private funds, to permanently protect over 73,000 acres of viable, irreplaceable farmland.

New York's fertile lands, ample water, and supportive economic climate create an overall environment that is favorable for agricultural growth and vitality. The ACA looks forward to assisting the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, the State Legislature, and the farm community in bringing focus to programs, policies, and issues that impact upon the economic viability and growth of the agricultural industry.



## Summary of Activities by County 2019 – 2020

<b>County</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Albany</b>	AML §303-a • Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 3 AML §303-b • Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1-3 • Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1-3 AML §305(4) • Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) for solar energy projects AML 308- Sound Ag Practice Opinion West Wind Acres
<b>Allegany</b>	AML §303-a • Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 3 AML §305(4) • Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) for solar energy projects and 1 for Town of Hume Water System Improvement Project
<b>Broome</b>	AML §303-b • Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 4 & 5 • Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 4 & 5 AML §305(4) • Processed a Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for sewer rehabilitation in
<b>Cattaraugus</b>	AML §303-b • Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 5 • Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 5 AML §305(4) • Processed 2 Notices of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects
<b>Cayuga</b>	AML §303-a • Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 5. AML §303-b • Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 5 AML §305(4) • Processed 4 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District • Town of Sennett for water system improvements • Town of Sterling for water main installation • Town of Moravia: Solar • Town of Niles: Solar
<b>Chautauqua</b>	AML §324 Awarded \$50,000 to update the County Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan AML §305(4) • Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for watermain replacement AML §305(4) • Processed 3 Notices of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects

<b>Chemung</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Chenango</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1A.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1A &amp; 3A</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Town of Sidney for water system improvements</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) in the Ag District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Clinton</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 7C</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Columbia</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 4 &amp; 10</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar</li> </ul> <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded Columbia Land Conservancy \$50,000 Land Trust Grants Round 3</li> </ul>
<b>Cortland</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Delaware</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 6 &amp; 12</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 3</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Dutchess</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 20-23</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 20-23</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul> <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded Dutchess Land Conservancy \$50,000 for Land Trust Grants Round 3</li> </ul>
<b>Erie</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos.1,5,8,12-17</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos.8,13-17, 17</li> </ul> AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Essex</b>	AML §303-b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> AML §324 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$50,000 to update the County Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan</li> </ul> AML §325 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded Peconic Land Trust \$46,855 for Land Trust Grants Round 3</li> </ul> AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Fulton</b>	AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 3 Notices of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Franklin</b>	AML §303-a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> AML §303-b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Ag. District for solar energy projects and 1 for Town of Malone Emergency Water main Installation</li> </ul>
<b>Genesee</b>	AML §303-a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 3</li> </ul> AML §303-b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 4</li> </ul> AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests processed for water system improvements, including STAMP</li> <li>· Processed 6 Notices of Intent (NOI) for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Greene</b>	AML §303-b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 124</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 124</li> </ul> AML §303-c <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified Consolidation of Agricultural District No. 124</li> </ul>
<b>Herkimer</b>	AML §303-c <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified Consolidation of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> AML §303-b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1-4 &amp; 6</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Jefferson</b>	AML §303-b

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1 &amp;2</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural Districts No. 2</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural Districts No. 1-3</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects and 1 NOI for Cape Vincent Water Main Installation</li> </ul>
<b>Lewis</b>	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$928,853 for the conservation of a dairy farm, Flat Rock Farm, in the Town of Denmark through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 8 Notices of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Livingston</b>	<p>AML §324-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Town of Leicester Awarded \$25,000 to develop an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 2 &amp; 3</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for Town of Dansville water main replacement</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 8 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Madison</b>	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects and 1 for Sullivan / Sleepy Hollow water main</li> </ul>
<b>Monroe</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 5</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 5</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 5 Notice of Intent (NOI) request for water main improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 8 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul> <p>AML§ 325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded Genesee Land Trust \$41,000 Land Trust Grant Round 2</li> </ul>
<b>Montgomery</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 5 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Niagara</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 7 AML §305(4)</li> <li>· Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for Town of Cambria water main improvements and STAMP Water System Upgrades AML §305(4)</li> <li>· Processed 7 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Oneida</b>	<p>AML §303-c</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified Consolidation of Agricultural District No. 3.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1-7</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 2,3,5 &amp; 7</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 3 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.in the Towns of Sherrill, Verona, and City of Rome AML §305(4)</li> <li>· Processed 8 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Onondaga</b>	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$50,000 to update the County Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 2.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 3</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1-3</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 9 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Ontario</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 9.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1 &amp; 6</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1,6 &amp; 8</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for Town of Farmington &amp; Canandaigua's water main and tank installation and V. of Naples Transmission AML §305(4)</li> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Orange</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1 &amp; 2</li> </ul>
<b>Orange</b>	<p>AML §303-c</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the Consolidation of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul>

	<p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 20 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects And Town of Crawford Dwaar Kill Water supply Project</li> </ul> <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded Orange County Land Trust \$50,000 for Land Trust Grants Rd. 3</li> </ul>
<b>Orleans</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <p>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. C1</p> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 5 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Oswego</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 11</li> <li>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 11</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-c</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified Consolidation of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 9 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for water system improvements.</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 7 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Otsego</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul>
<b>Putnam</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> <li>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul>
<b>Rensselaer</b>	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded \$564,601 for the conservation of a dairy farm, Sheffer's Grassland Dairy, in the Towns of Hoosick and Pittstown through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 6</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> <li>Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processed 7 Notices of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Saratoga</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> </ul> <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$870,826 for the conservation of a dairy farm, Barber Brothers Dairy II, in the Town of Northumberland through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded Saratoga P.L.A.N. \$50,000 Land Trusts Grants Round 2</li> <li>- Awarded Saratoga P.L.A.N. \$44,550 Land Trusts Grants Round 3</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 9 Notices of Intent (NOI) in the Ag District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Schenectady</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul>
<b>Schoharie</b>	<p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded Schoharie Land Trust \$50,000 Land Trust Grants Round 2</li> <li>- Awarded Schoharie Land Trust \$50,000 Land Trust Grants Round 3</li> </ul>
<b>Schuyler</b>	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$12,500 to update the County Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent (NOI) within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Seneca</b>	<p>AML §324</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$50,000 to update the County Ag. and Farmland Protection Plan</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Ag District for solar energy projects and 1 for Town of Fayette Wastewater Treatment Plant</li> </ul>
<b>St. Lawrence</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 2</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for Town of Louisville water main installation</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 19 Notices of Intent (NOI) in the Ag District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Steuben</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 6</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 2 &amp; 3</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1,3 &amp; 6</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Suffolk</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1,3 &amp; 5</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1,3,5 &amp; 7</li> </ul> <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded Peconic Land Trust \$50,000 for Land Trust Grants Round 2</li> <li>- Awarded Peconic Land Trust \$43,786 for Land Trust Grants Round 3</li> </ul>
<b>Sullivan</b>	No Activity
<b>Tioga</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1</li> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 2</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 3</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notices of Intent within the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Tompkins</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 1.</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 2 &amp; 3</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Ulster</b>	<p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1-3</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District Nos. 1-4</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>
<b>Washington</b>	<p>AML §303-a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 4</li> <li>· Certified the 8-year review of Agricultural District No. 24</li> </ul> <p>AML §303-b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1 &amp; 6</li> </ul> <p>AML §305(4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 5 Notices of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul> <p>AML §325</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$230,118 for the conservation of a dairy farm, Ro-Acres, in the Town of White Creek through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> <li>· Awarded \$217,050 for the conservation of a dairy farm, Lindgren Farm, in the Town of Hebron through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$426,854 for the conservation of a dairy farm, Swezey View Farm, in the Town of Hartford through the Dairy Transitions Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> <li>- Awarded Agricultural Stewardship Association \$40,162 LTG Round 2</li> </ul>
<b>Wayne</b>	AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 4 Notices of Intent in the Ag District for solar energy projects and 5 for the Towns of Macedon, Rose, and Arcadia for water main installations</li> </ul>
<b>Westchester</b>	AML §325 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awarded North Salem Open Land Foundation \$25,000 Land Trust Grants Rd. 3</li> </ul>
<b>Wyoming</b>	AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 4 Notices of Intent (NOI) in the ag district for solar energy projects</li> </ul> AML §325 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Awarded \$2,000,000 for the conservation of a vegetable farm, Marquart Brothers Farm, in the Towns of Orangeville and Whethersfield through the Farm Operations in Transition Farmland Protection Initiative.</li> </ul>
<b>Yates</b>	AML §303-b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> <li>· Certified annual inclusions to Agricultural District No. 1</li> </ul> AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 2 Notice of Intent (NOI) requests for sewer system improvements</li> </ul> AML §305(4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Processed 1 Notice of Intent in the Ag. District for solar energy projects</li> </ul>